

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

NUMBER 111

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 1995

Neighbors Gather for Garage Sale



There were all kinds of things for sale at the Community Center on the weekend of September 16 as Valley residents gathered for a combined garage sale. Buyers could venture into the auditorium for a bargain ...



... or make their selections outside under a clear blue sky.

Should Valley Middle School Students Be Required to Wear Uniforms?

By John R. Flores, Ph.D.

VMS Principal
Should Visitation Valley Middle School (VVMS) students have school uniforms? This is the major issue that will be presented at the next Key-SEC meeting in October. There is a movement towards school uniforms in the United States.

Many parents of Visitation Valley students have recommended their children wear school uniforms, a decision requiring community input that will need to be made before the spring semester.

If a resolution is made to wear school uniforms, then VVMS will need time to inform all the 5th grade students scheduled to be at the school next year.

VIZ KIDS

The after school program known as Viz Kids is in operation, with a wide variety of activities offered to students in a safe and nurturing environment. If you want your child to keep busy after school, we strongly recommend the Viz Kids program.

LATER FRIDAY START

Monday through Thursday, school begins at 8:10 a.m. On Friday school does not begin until 9:25 a.m. On Friday morning we will have our Viz Kids program with many activities to keep students busy until classes begin.

STUDENT TEACHERS AT VIS

San Francisco State University will place four student teachers at VVMS this year. This is an honor for the school, meaning the high caliber of instruction is being recognized outside the Valley.

Mayoral Candidates Forum on October 5

Residents of the Southeast Sector will sponsor a Mayoral Candidates Forum on Thursday, October 5, 7 p.m. at the Southeast Community Facility Community Room, 1800 Oakdale Ave. (corner of Phelps St.) and featuring candidates Robert Achtenburg, Supervisor Angela Alioto, Willie Brown, Ben Horne, Mayor Frank Jordan and Joel Ventresca.

AMERICORP VOLUNTEERS

Two AmeriCorps volunteers have been assigned to work at VVMS. Both volunteers, Ambrose Carroll and Trinh Nguyen, will be supporting service learning projects in the Valley this year.

SCHOOL PICTURES

We expect school pictures to be distributed this month. Some students missed picture day, but a re-take day will be scheduled.

IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES

8: Staff Development Day (no school); 9: Indigenous People Day (no school); 20: End of first six weeks of school; 23: Middle School Night at Everett Middle School; 31: Halloween.

OCTOBER SPORTS

Softball - 3: at Luther Burbank (Crocker Amazon #2); 5: at Herbert Hoover (Larsen); 10: Giannini (C.A. #2); 12: M.L. King (C.A. #2).

Baseball - 3: M.L. King (C.A. #1); 6: James Lick (C.A. #2); 11: Herbert Hoover (C.A. #1); 13: at J. Denman (C.A. #2).

Programs for Youth Seek Participants

Three Visitation Valley youth programs are currently recruiting new participants for their various activities.

Village Recreation Program, formerly known as Geneva Towers Recreation Program, is now offering a free agenda of computer instruction, competitive team sports, tutoring and recreation for youth ages 13-18 from Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Further information is available from Vernon Long at 239-0174.

Camp Fire Boys and Girls City Kids offers free after school youth programs from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday both at the Village, 333 Schermerhorn St. and at Visitation Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Ave. Programs include tutoring, arts, photography, games, painting, field trips, camping, celebration of diverse cultures, community service projects, conflict resolution and environmental activities.

Success of these projects depends on the support and input of community members. Urban Service Corp members look forward to your participation. Camilo Looper, Kim Woo, Ambrose Carroll, Johnny Sun and Trinh Nguyen contributed to this article.

Plan in Works To Make VVMS A Beacon Center

Visitation Valley Community Collaborative has commenced a plan to have Visitation Valley Middle School (VVMS) become a Beacon Center which will offer a broad range of programs and services for youth and families before and after school, evenings, weekends and during the summer. Services will build on and connect with those already being offered to the community at other locations, as well as the Viz Kids program at VVMS.

A unique collaboration of public and private entities has come together to build the Beacon Centers. Including community residents and community-based organizations, the S.F. Unified School District, the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Their Families (MOCYF), local foundations and other city departments. Vision of the collaborative is that each center will be a beacon of hope for young people and families in its community. Projections are to open four to six Beacon Centers in neighborhoods across the City. Visitation Valley and the Mission are the most likely communities so far to have Beacon Centers, having already begun their planning.

Each Beacon Center will be open all day, year-round, located at under-utilized public buildings, especially schools. Each will offer a vast array of services, activities, opportunities and supports that promote the healthy development of children, youth, families and the community. Services at each Beacon Center will be different and will reflect the needs and interests of each community.

Members of the community - adults and young people - will be essential partners in planning and operating a Beacon Center. In the next several months, the collaborative will conduct a neighborhood planning process to get input from as many people as possible about what programs and services they would like to see at the Beacon Center. Further information is available from Brenda Lopez at Visitation Valley Community Center by calling 467-6400.

Urban Service Project Enhances and Unifies Local Community

Five corp members from the San Francisco Urban Service Project (USP) will be working on several projects to help build and strengthen the Visitation Valley community.

USP is an innovative national service program that brings together young people from diverse backgrounds and allows them the opportunity to work in community organizations and public schools in San Francisco. USP corp members will collaborate with people in the community to create projects that enhance and unify the community.

Johnny Sun and Kim Woo will be working to increase parent and community involvement at Visitation Valley Elementary School. In collaboration with the Children's Center, the school will create a community garden. Anyone with interest or ideas can contact Kim or Johnny at 55 Schermerhorn St., (415) 469-4798.

Ambrose Carroll and Trinh Nguyen will be organizing the Visitation Valley Middle School clean-up campaign and Democracy in Action, which teaches students about the democratic process. To learn more about these projects, contact Trinh or Ambrose at 450 Raymond Ave., (415) 469-4590.

Camilo Looper will be working at the John King Senior Center. Gardening and reading projects will link the seniors in the community with students in the elementary and middle schools. If you are over 60 years old, love gardening and enjoy being around children, please contact Camilo at 590 Leland Ave., (415) 239-6233.

Success of these projects depends on the support and input of community members. Urban Service Corp members look forward to your participation.

Camilo Looper, Kim Woo, Ambrose Carroll, Johnny Sun and Trinh Nguyen contributed to this article.

Safety Discussed by Residents At Valley Task Force Meeting

Safety was a heated topic of discussion at the Visitation Valley Task Force (VVTF) regular meeting September 23, as a standing-room only crowd jammed St. James Presbyterian Church to voice their feelings of uneasiness with local issues.

Representatives from Muni, and both Potrero and Ingleside police stations were on hand to patiently listen and later provide answers to residents' questions and descriptions of auto, transit and safety problems, which they related to the large audience along with some suggestions of how their incidents could be individually rectified.

One-by-one, residents of the Valley went to the podium to describe acts of harassment, thievery and battery they either witnessed or had misfortune to fall victim.

With tears in her eyes, one woman described humiliation in being robbed on a local bus, and later having to struggle to free a young child trapped in the vehicle's rear doors.

One man told the frightening story of being assaulted and robbed while strolling down Leland Ave. with his wife. Frustration filled his voice as he told of helplessness in protecting himself from an armed assailant.

Yet another woman living on San Bruno Ave. told how her parked car

was hit by a Muni bus, resulting in a number of phone calls trying to report the accident. A Muni official in attendance said the matter would be investigated immediately.

Both Betty Williams, Valley Branch Librarian at 54 Leland Ave. and Julie Kavanagh, executive director of Visitation Valley Community Center at 50 Raymond Ave., invited any victim of potential trouble or actual crime to seek refuge at their respected organizations where authorities could be contacted and necessary reports be safely filed.

Other matters addressed at the meeting included: double and triple parking on narrow streets, parking on sidewalks and public property, unusually long waits for buses on local routes, continual loitering in the vicinity of the recently closed Geneva Towers, reckless speeding on busy streets and pedestrians crossing at dangerous intersections.

In a brief request, Principal John Flores of Visitation Valley Middle School asked Muni officials in attendance to consider installing a bus stop adjacent to the Raymond Ave. school to lessen daily student migrations through the neighborhood.

VVTF members will have a special benchmark meeting on Saturday, October 7, 10:30 a.m. at 240 Leland Ave.

College Fair October 21 at S.F. State

High school students and their parents are invited to meet with a variety of college representatives from the Bay Area and other regions of the state and country on Saturday, October 21 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at San Francisco State University (SFSU).

"Information about nearly everything a person might want to know about applying and getting into college will be available," said Frieda Lee, director of S.F. State's Student Outreach Services and one of the key organizers of the event. "Think of it as one-stop shopping - but for a college."

Billed as the San Francisco Area College Fair, the event will take place inside and at information tables outside the S.F. State Student Center Building, 1600 Holloway Ave., at the intersection of 19th Ave.

Representatives from the University of California, California State University, community colleges and many other public and private colleges and

universities will be on hand to field questions from students and parents about application procedures, academic programs, costs, financial aid, housing, deadlines and other important college matters.

Special workshops on how to apply to the 22-campus California State University and nine-campus University of California systems will be held.

Informational sessions about community colleges, and private and individual colleges will also be part of the event.

Bilingual speakers of Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Tagalog will be available at specific information tables.

The San Francisco Area College Fair is sponsored by the S.F. Unified School District, Jefferson Union High School District, Student Outreach Services at SFSU and federally funded programs designed to assist students making the transition to college.

For more information, call 338-7168.

What to Do if There's a Rodent Problem

Due to increased rodent activity harborage and rodent-proof of dwellings.

Should the services of a licensed pest control company be preferred, residents are advised to check the local Yellow Pages.

All rodent activity that involves residential or public property (city, state or federal) should be reported to the Bureau of Environmental Health Management's complaint program located at 1380 Howard St., or by calling 255-3610. Although the Department does not provide direct rodent abatement to private property, staff from Environmental Health can assist in identifying the rodent problem, discuss methods of control for food sources, 554-2770.

Safety Tips for Children Home Alone

For more than 8 million American children, the trip to and from school, as well as their time spent at home after school, will be done alone. Children must feel safe in their own homes. But rather than focusing on the negative, scary parts, the best way to approach this topic with children is by discussing what they can do in certain situations; how their actions can get help in a hurry; how neighbors, security officers or police can make sure everything is safe again; and how happy you will be with their actions.

* Have your child contact you, a designated neighbor or a relative when they get home.

* Tell your child not to enter the house if a door is open or a window is broken.

* Tell your children never to talk to or go with strangers. If someone bothers them, make sure your child knows to call out for help or flee. Make sure they don't open doors to strangers - even someone claiming to be a police officer.

* Instruct your child to tell you if any adult asks them to keep a secret, asks a lot of questions or wants to give them a gift or take their picture.

* Encourage your child to tell you if any unusual occurrence or uncomfortable situation takes place when they are away from you.

* Make sure your child knows to

never give personal information to a stranger or say they are home alone.

* Tell your children not to go into any house but their own without your permission.

* Keep doors and windows locked day and night. If windows are opened for ventilation, make sure screens are secured. If you have a security system, install security screens that trip the alarm when cut or removed.

* What can you do as a parent? Consider establishing a code word known only to you and your child, changing the word once it has been used. Instruct your child never to go with any adult who does not give the code word. Instruct your child's daycare center or school not to release your child to anyone but you or a designated person. Have them call you immediately if your child is absent or to verify when someone else picks up your child. Ask a neighbor to check on children periodically, and let your children know if you won't be home on time. Have your child's fingerprints, a current photograph, and dental and medical records in a safe, accessible place. This will help police locate your child if they are missing.

Weatec Security, the nation's leading full-service residential and commercial security company, offers a free FBI-compatible Child Identification Kit by calling (800) 877-3287.

Matrix II Targets the City's Parks

By Mayor Frank Jordan

The City's Matrix program has just won a big victory. All along, we've known that the program works. Now, we know it's perfectly legal. Federal Judge D. Lowell Jensen has just thrown out a constitutional challenge to the Matrix program.

In his decision, Judge Jensen stated that "the City has legitimate reasons for implementing Matrix, including the prevention of crime, maintenance of public health and the preservation of city aesthetics."

Four years ago, I promised the citizens of San Francisco that I would tackle the issues which were dragging down the civility and greatness of our City. In order to accomplish this, my top priorities have been fighting crime, protecting public health, and stopping the physical deterioration of our City's parks and neighborhoods. In other words, my priority is to improve the quality of life for our citizens.

To do this, I instituted the Matrix program, a comprehensive approach to improve the quality of life in our City by combining social and health outreach services with law enforcement to establish an acceptable standard of behavior on our streets.

Based on the success of Matrix, I recently expanded the program to include Matrix II, a program designed to eliminate illegal encampments in our city parks. And much like Matrix, the goal of Matrix II is to set acceptable standards of behavior in our parks while offering the means necessary for those who are truly homeless to find exits from homelessness.

Matrix II has already eliminated a substantial number of illegal encampments in our parks, reducing the hazards to public safety and public health.

Our city parks are not campgrounds. In my attempt to take back our parks, we have offered fair and compassion-

ate alternatives for those who cannot help themselves. We have also increased Matrix activities in the surrounding neighborhoods, thereby ensuring that the quality of life in those neighborhoods is not affected. Our social service and health Matrix outreach teams have dedicated a large portion of their time to these surrounding neighborhoods because I care about every street in San Francisco.

Matrix is a compassionate, comprehensive program. It encompasses a wide range of social service outreach components that assist those in need, with a public safety component that merely enforces the existing laws that you and I respect and follow. Crime in the targeted areas where Matrix has been implemented has decreased markedly. There are tangible results. Matrix is working.

In Judge Jensen's decision, he validated our Matrix program, recognizing the important public policy that Matrix has intended to advance. Judge Jensen stated that "the city has submitted uncontradicted evidence that homeless encampments can lead to drug sales, vandalism, public elimination of body wastes, and other unhealthy conditions, as well as facilitation of a host of other crimes by and against homeless individuals." With the court ruling, we now have the renewed commitment to continue this program aggressively.

In confronting these quality of life issues, I have made the difficult decisions that have decreased crime, increased public safety and improved the quality of life in our City.

Your city government will continue to improve public safety and to improve the quality of life for all San Franciscans. Public safety is my number one priority and I will not be satisfied until every citizen feels safe in our neighborhoods and in our parks.

Secured Credit Cards Survey Finds More Banks Serving Consumers with Bad Credit

Consumer Action (CA) recently released its 1995 Secured Credit Card Survey which reveals the marketplace offer interest rates of 10 percent or below.

"As secured credit, we believe the cards should have lower APRs," said Alvarez Boyd. "The level of risk doesn't warrant a heavy APR."

All the surveyed cards carry annual fees, ranging from \$18 to as high as \$50. Interest earnings on surveyed cards range from just over two to 5 percent annual interest.

Other findings of CA's survey include:

"Fourteen of the surveyed cards are available to people with credit problems and bankruptcy if the applicant has had no delinquent payments in the past six months, and if the bankruptcy proceedings were "discharged" (settled in court).

"Some of the banks guarantee that anyone with the money for a deposit can have a card.

"Six of the issuers require a deposit of \$250 or less (minimum \$100).

"All but one of the surveyed cards offer a credit line equal to at least 100 percent of the amount on deposit - and one offers a credit line of twice the amount of a deposit. In the past, most secured card issuers provided a credit line equal to only 50 to 80 percent of the amount deposited.

"All 20 surveyed banks will accept people who have no credit history - no information on file with one of the major credit bureaus. This makes secured cards a viable option for young adults just entering the job and credit markets.

Banks offering cards include major institutions in both California and elsewhere, such as: Bank of America, Citibank, Chase Manhattan Bank, First Interstate Bank and Wells Fargo Bank.

SECURED CARD SHOPPING TIPS

When shopping for a secured credit card, Consumer Action suggests consumers ask about the card's annual percentage rate (APR), annual fee, late and cash-advance fees, and whether it has a grace period - a period of time in which you can pay off your new account balance without incurring interest. Also ask these questions:

"Do you accept people with bad credit, or just those with no credit?"

"Can I qualify for your card if I have declared bankruptcy in the past?"

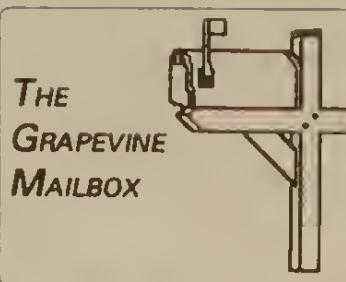
"Will you report my payment history to credit bureaus?"

"Is interest paid on my deposit?"

"How long must I leave funds on deposit in order to earn that interest rate?"

"Will my line of credit be equal to, less than or more than my deposit?"

"How long until I will be eligible for an unsecured card?"



Request that Medical Study Include Valley

Following is a letter dated September 21, 1995 and sent to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Dear President Kevin F. Shelley and Members of the Board:

I am writing to ask that the cancer and respiratory disease study of the Bayview and Hunters Point area be extended to include Visitacion Valley, Little Hollywood and Executive Park. All of the southeast section of San Francisco should be included in the study.

Our communities have been breathing airborne dust and particulate matter that has been saturated with hazardous and toxic contaminants for over 50 years. The facts are overwhelming that toxic, hazardous and inert air emissions will exacerbate existing respiratory disease, and are a contributing factor in causing cancer, respiratory disease, heart and pulmonary disease, and birth defects. Fine particles of inert dust have been linked to a high death rate in various studies, such as: Office of Policy and Analysis et al, Environmental Protection Agency and the Harvard School of Public Health.

Visitacion Valley and Little Hollywood are low to medium income and minority communities. The health effects that air contaminants have on infants, children, pregnant women and the elderly is greatly intensified because of the lack of medical insurance, lack of early treatment and the lack of money for medical prescriptions.

Our communities are surrounded by the toxic crescent, which is a crescent-shaped area of contaminated sites. There are thousands of abandoned underground storage tanks and hundreds of former sites such as: storage yards, power plants, metal shops, chemical companies, paint companies, lead processing plants, auto dismantling yards, plating companies, cement plants and stone works.

The toxic crescent extends from San Francisco International Airport to Hunters Point in the north and includes: the Brisbane landfill, starting from the San Francisco county line and extending south, 600 acres and 40 feet deep San Francisco's dump for over 30 years; the Southern Pacific railroad yard, 180 acres (Visitacion Valley and Little Hollywood); Bayshore rail yard, 60 acres heavily contaminated (Visitacion Valley); Schlage Lock Company, 319 tons annually (Little Hollywood and Visitacion Valley); PG&E Martin Service yard, 40 acres (Visitacion Valley); Midway Village and Bayshore Park built on landfill that is contaminated by toxic hydrocarbons (Visitacion Valley); Norcal/Sanitary Fill Company complex, one million tons of solid waste processed, 67,000 gallons of hazardous waste processed, and 250,000 tons of recycle material processed annually (Little Hollywood); 200 contaminated sites, two power plants and Bay Area Drum site (Bayview and Hunters Point).

Little Hollywood is taking the lead in opposing the expansion of the three industries of solid waste, hazardous waste, and recycling by the Norcal/Sanitary Fill Company and their affiliates at the Tunnel/Beatty Complex. The homes, the residents and businesses of this community are affected the most by the ongoing operations and will also be effected the most by the expansion of the facilities.

The Norcal/Sanitary Fill Company and its affiliates at the Tunnel/Beatty Complex process the majority of garbage/trash, hazardous waste and recycling for the entire City and County of San Francisco. These three operations can be completely separated and do not have to be physically sited in the same complex. The adverse affects of the Complex have been a problem to the community for over 25 years.

Environmental justice or equity was not served by the decision to site these three operations directly adjacent to a residential district. These operations can be performed at separate locations and do not have to be physically sited in the same complex. Without the City's nod of approval, this could not have happened.

As large as the cost of clean-up of toxic or hazardous sites and the cost of containment of contaminated air emissions may seem, it will be small

compared to the present and long term health cost for the people affected with these airborne contaminants. These medical costs will eventually have to be paid by the taxpayers because the people that will be affected the most will be the least able to pay.

Like the past and present, the future will be extremely difficult for poor minority children. To burden any child with a preventable respiratory disease is not only unjust but it is criminal. Shame will be the basis of worldwide opinion about the country that had men walk on the moon 20 years ago and still fills the skies, waters and the land with pollutants.

The extended medical study into our communities is necessary so that people needing treatment will get it as soon as possible. Stopping the pollution at its source is absolutely necessary. Just because the air quality on the average in the Bay Area is better than in the past does not mean that it is all right to dump pollutants on specific communities, because that is called discrimination by effect.

Please extend the medical study, because knowing is always better than guessing.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Ralph Orozco

Assaults on Citizens

Editor:

I've lived in Little Hollywood 28 years and before that in Visitacion Valley for about 35 years. Over those years, I've seen bad situations get worse.

I was riding one day on a bus going to Visitacion Valley when six persons got on, went to the back of the bus, beat and robbed two kids about 14 sit-

ting close to me. I went to the front of the bus to inform the driver, who said he knew he had a kid on the bus who the others work over. He told me to stay in the front of the bus.

I feel there should be police officer on the 9-San Bruno bus 8 to 9 a.m., and 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. in plain clothes - no uniform! Perhaps a police wagon is needed to bring some students home after their classes. We do need a stronger police presence in Visitacion Valley and Little Hollywood.

Just two years ago, my wife was robbed in front of the Korean Church in Little Hollywood at 3 p.m.

Just two weeks ago in front of the 7-11 on Bayshore Blvd. my neighbor's kid was beaten.

Henry Toscano

FIVE YEARS AGO IN THE GRAPEVINE

OCTOBER 1990

*Housing Authority Director David Gilmore met with Sunnydale residents in a special meeting prior to scheduled renovation of the housing complex.

*Visitacion Valley Middle School announced its Back to School Night for parents and the community to be held on October 3.

*Koyuse Club celebrated its fifth year as a Camp Fire community youth program.

*With funds from the California Housing Rehabilitation Program and the S.F. Redevelopment Agency, Hospice by the Bay began planning for renovation of the former Madcare site at Leland Ave. and Peabody St.

*Valley resident Mario Donnelli retired after 50 years as a bartender in North Beach.

Saturdays at Randall Museum

Sign-ups begin at 11:15 a.m. for 11:30 a.m. classes, and at 12:30 p.m. for 1 p.m. classes. Space is limited. No organized groups please. Some spaces can be reserved for members - call 554-9600 for information. Young Audiences Arts Card holders receive a 2 for 1 discount. \$4-10 a person sliding scale. Please Note: Adults also pay the class fee, and must accompany all children under 8. All ages are welcome at 1 p.m. 11:30 a.m. classes are open to children 5 and up.

OCTOBER 7

10 a.m.: Family Ceramics - Try a variety of fun clay projects. An enjoyable introduction to clay work for parent and child alike.

11:30 a.m.: Test Tube Rockets - Explore with excitement as you experiment with reactions of acids and bases.

1 p.m.: Scarecrow Making - Make an original scarecrow with your friends and family. Enter your creation in the Halloween Scarecrow Contest.

OCTOBER 14

10 a.m.: Family Ceramics

11:30 a.m.: Water, H2O, Everywhere - Splash, play, be wet and wonderful. What

would we be without water?

1 p.m.: 2-Way Collages - Make collages that fold into two-sided accordions you can stand up and display.

OCTOBER 21

10 a.m. Family Ceramics

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Children Train Day - Engineers wanted to run scale model trains. Kids can try their hand at being Casey Jones in this free event.

11:30 a.m.: Edible Science Experiments - Prepare your taste buds for exciting discoveries!

1 p.m.: Halloween Masks - Just in time for goblins, fairy princesses and scary creatures. Make your own Halloween mask from a variety of craft materials.

OCTOBER 28

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Randall Halloween Fest - Let the wonders of the nocturnal animal kingdom thrill you. Creep through the Dungeon of Doom, if you dare. Games, pumpkin carving, spooky science, face painting, a costume review and special Halloween entertainment will be featured along with a home cooked lunch. Free admission, with a small fee for some activities.

FREE ON SATURDAYS

Animal Feeding at 12 noon; Animal Talk at 2:15 p.m.; and a Model Railroad Exhibit from 12:30 - 5 p.m. each second and fourth Saturday.

兒童食物計劃發起人

訪谷社區中心學童們發起人們有關孩子們筆記就讀，在我們計劃中就讀本屆，所有餐和以前一樣，不用分開收費。

這計劃作用是像託一視同仁沒有分別是實行幫助所有學童沒有種族顏色國籍年齡性別宗教及傷殘。

有關所有詳情請打電話 Brenda Lopez

聯絡 (415)467-6400

Visitacion Valley Community Center sponsors the Child Care Food Program for children enrolled in our programs.

All enrolled children are offered the same meal at no extra charge.

This program is offered with a guarantee that no discrimination of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion or disability will be practiced against any client.

Please contact Brenda Lopez at (415) 467-6400 for more information.

GRAPEVINE

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Police Tackle Gang Enforcement, Reinstate Bike Patrols

By Captain Michael Dower
Ingleside Station

GENEVA TOWERS

On August 31, the last tenants were to have vacated Geneva Towers, the federal housing highrise at the corner of Sunnydale and Schwerin. All tenants have been relocated to newer residences, and soon the Towers will be demolished to make way for more "human" designed low-income housing. I applaud this effort to create better living conditions and anticipate a lowering of crime in the area as a result.

BALBOA HIGH SCHOOL

Balboa High School opened last week with a closed campus policy in effect for the coming school year. Due in a large part to our working together through community meetings and a petition drive, the cafeteria has been finally finished and is now operating. Hopefully, this will enable us to dedicate more attention to the pressing problems of the District and not have to spend hundreds of hours monitoring lunch hour problems on Mission St.

POLICY YOUTH DAY

On July 19, the officers of Ingleside Station, along with the S.F. Recreation and Parks Department hosted more than 400 children at Excelsior Playground for a Mini Police Day. Officers from the mounted unit, traffic unit, PAL cadets and volunteers served

over 400 hot dog lunches and participated in a fun day with the kids. I would like to especially thank Kim Korsted, the director of Excelsior Playground for all her work. Also, thanks to all the merchants who donated prizes, along with the S.F. Giants and Oakland A's. Finally, thanks to the S.F. Police Officers Community Service Fund and the SFPD's Operation DREAM for providing funding for all the food and beverages.

BICYCLE PATROL

Officers are again receiving bicycle training. For some time, training was not available, but due to community requests, it has been reinstated. We hope to have more officers trained and on bicycle patrol soon.

ROBBERY REPORTS

We received about twice as many reports of robberies in August as in July. The reason for this, in part, may be the work being done by the Mayor's Office to get people in the Sunnydale and Visitacion Valley to report crimes as they happen. We support these efforts completely.

GANG ENFORCEMENT

Gang Enforcement and Street Saturation (GESS) is the new unit formed by Chief Ribera to attack the gang problem that has been escalating in the Mission and Ingleside districts. Two sergeants and 12 officers from both Stations will be working closely with Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments, S.F. Unified School District, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, District Attorney's Office, and state and federal agencies in an all-out assault on gang related crime.

AUTO BOOSTINGS

During August, auto boostings and thefts went up 24 percent, due in part to the termination of our special task force targeting these crimes. Without

proper staffing, our efforts in these areas will suffer.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Lt. Bill Gilbert for his five years of dedicated service at Ingleside Station. Bill was recently transferred to Narcotics Investigations, an area where he has demonstrated considerable expertise over the years.

WELCOME, LT. PERA

Welcome to Lt. Pera, who comes to us from Sexual Assault Investigations where he was officer-in-charge. Lt. Pera will be working on the midnight shift, and Lt. Tim Foley from midnight shift moves up to take the position vacated by Lt. Gilbert on the day watch.

NEW BEAT OFFICERS

New beat officers have been selected to replace Off. Bud Massey, who is now a field training officer, and Off. Bob Payne, who has been off work due to an injury. Off. Gary Alcardo will walk the beat on Mission from College to Brazil, while Off. Al Miranda will walk the adjoining beat - Mission St. from Ocean to Guttenberg. Both officers are 15-year veterans of the force and plan to use their combined experience to help solve the problems of merchants and the public in their areas.

CRIME PREVENTION DAY

SF-SAFE will sponsor a day of crime prevention workshops October 14 at the Police Academy in Diamond Heights. Workshops will include self-defense training, citizen patrols, leadership skills, insights to City government, building code enforcement, and how to avoid scams, frauds and pickpockets. Your \$12 fee includes lunch. Enrollment is limited to 150 people, so call 673-SAFE now to sign up.

OUTSTANDING ARRESTS

As usual, Ingleside police officers, through their diligence and skill, continue to make outstanding arrests. Here are just a few of the notable cases (there are many more) that occurred during July and August:

Paris & Persia: Officers Robert Frazier and Rachel Benton were responding to a call of assistance regarding a person who had been shot. As they approached a car in traffic with their lights and sirens going, the car sped up and ran a stop light. The officers gave chase and followed the car through McLaren Park, where they saw the occupants toss a gun out the window as they sped along. Eventually the car crashed into a parked vehicle, and the officers took all of the occupants into custody, then went back and recovered the loaded .25 cal. automatic pistol. The car turned out to be stolen by the occupants, who were members of the E-mob gang operating in the Excelsior.

VISITACION VALLEY GRAPEVINE - OCTOBER 1995 - 3

McLaren Park: Officers Eric O'Neal and Manolo Rosal (still in his probationary year) were on patrol in McLaren Park during the early morning hours when a young woman ran toward them hysterically screaming that she had been kidnapped and raped by a group of men. With the help of Sgt. Rich Reyes, they established a perimeter around the area where the men were thought to be hiding and called for dog units to help in the search. The dogs found the suspects, and due to the diligence officers used to protect the crime scene, much useful evidence was recovered.

Highland & Mission: A fistfight the day before between the 31st Street gang and the Norte gang led to an attempt at revenge by the Nortes.

A diligent neighbor saw the Nortes stop at the corner and take a gun out of the engine compartment of their car. When they couldn't find any 31st Street gang members, they put the gun back and drove off. The neighbor called 9-1-1 with a description of the car and the man with the gun. Sgt. Perez, and Officers Androvich, Del-Carlo and Etcheverea heard the radio broadcast issued by Dispatch and based the caller's information. They spotted the car on Cotter St., but the occupants saw them and ditched the

car to escape. Officers Pat Tobin and Yesenia Grajeda (still in Field Training) re-interviewed the caller, then radioed their information to Dispatch. As officers searched the vehicle, they found the loaded automatic assault gun right where the caller told Officers Tobin and Yesenia it would be, along with ID belonging to a known parolee. The officers obtained information from the suspect's parole agent to conduct a search of his residence on Andover St.

With help from the RSVP unit, which specializes in parole arrests, the suspect was arrested at home the following day along with his roommate. A large quantity of narcotics for sale was found in their house.

Bernal Heights: A 15-year old burglar, wanted for a residential burglary that netted \$30,000 in jewelry and suspected of numerous additional burglaries in the Bernal Heights area, was caught due to the alertness of two officers taking a lunch break. Officers Vivian Bruce and Brenda Rodgers saw the suspect walk down the street and go into the China Restaurant at 525 Cortland. The officers went in right behind him and after a few questions to verify his identity, gave the angry young burglar a quick ride to the Youth Guidance Center.

ONRRA Events

Call for reservations and information.

FORT FUNSTON

*The Comeback Trail: See restoration of dunes which once prevailed in San Francisco in a three mile hike, 10 a.m. October 1 (238-2366).

*Going Native: Restore nesting site of the bank swallow, 9 a.m. October 27 (558-8642).

*Who Was Fearless Freddie?: Learn about Fort Funston during its army days, 2 p.m. October 7 (558-8642).

PORT POINT

*Picture This!: Photography instruction for youth age 8 and up, 10:30 a.m. October 21 (561-4323).

*Pier Crabbing: Learn about equipment, bait (50 cents fee) and regulations, 2 p.m. October 7, 28 (561-4323).

*The Stuff Forts are Made Of: Budding engineers and architects can explore Fort Point, 10 a.m. October 29 (561-4323).

OCEAN BEACH

*Adopt-a-Beach Clean-up Day: Bring friends and family to help clean Ocean Beach, 10 a.m. October 15 (558-8642).

*Beach Party Campfire: Bring marshmallows to Lincoln Way and Great Highway 8 p.m. October 20 (558-8642).

*Flight of the Plover: Take a beach walk to learn about the endangered snowy plover, 10 a.m. October 14 (558-8642).

PRESIDIO

*Architecture and Cultural Landscape: 1 p.m. October 14 (561-4323).

*Back to the Future: Walking tour of the Presidio, 10 a.m. October 1, 7, 8, 15, 29; 1 p.m. October 2, 18 (561-4323).

*Cemetery Walk Tour: The S.F. National Cemetery, 10:30 a.m. October 15 (561-4323).

*Don't Need No 809: Explore Crissy Field and its role in early aviation history, 10 a.m. October 14 (561-4323).

SUTRO HEIGHTS

*Sutro Heights Stroll: Meet ranger at Lion's Gate, 11 a.m. October 21.

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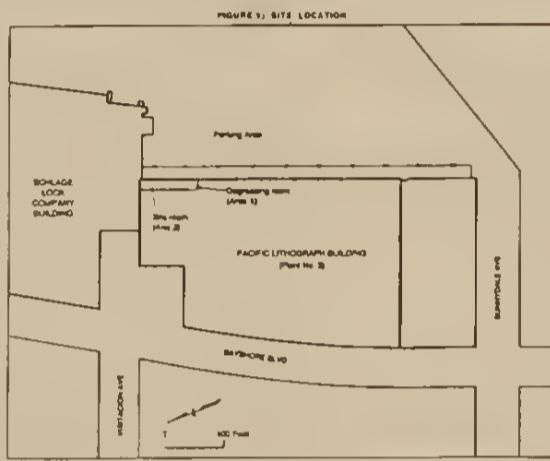
September 1995

California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Region 2
State Announces Public Comment Period on Draft Removal Action Work Plan and Proposed Negative Declaration.

INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), has issued this Public Notice and Fact Sheet to describe and request public comments on a draft *Removal Action Design and Implementation Work Plan (Removal Action Work Plan)* and a proposed Negative Declaration for soil cleanup activities at the Pacific Lithograph site (Site) at 2555 Bayshore Boulevard, San Francisco, California (Figure 1: Site Location Map). Soil studies have shown that *volatile organic compounds (VOCs)* are present in shallow soils beneath portions of the northeast corner of the site building.

Throughout this fact sheet, words or phases in ***bold, italicized*** type are defined in the Glossary.



PUBLIC NOTICE

DTSC announces a 30-day public review and comment period for the draft Removal Action Work Plan. The public comment period will run from September 15 through October 16, 1995. A public meeting is scheduled to discuss the draft Removal Action Work Plan and proposed Negative Declaration. The meeting will be held at:

Public Meeting
Visitacion Valley Community Center
50 Raymond Avenue
San Francisco
October 12, 1995
7 p.m.

The documents are available for review in the information repositories, noted on this page. Comments will be received both at the public meeting and by mail any time during the comment period. Send comments to DTSC at address shown in the box (lower right).

DTSC encourages interested members of the community to comment and ask questions about the draft plan. Your interest and comments will help ensure a thorough review of the information gathered and alternatives considered. DTSC will review the comments and prepare a formal response, which will also be available in the information repositories. The draft Removal Action Work Plan may be revised to incorporate relevant comments.

SITE HISTORY

The site building is one of several buildings in an area used primarily for industrial and manufacturing purposes since the 1920s. In the early 1950s, Schlage Lock Company (Schlage) purchased the Site from Southern Pacific and constructed Plant 3, a one-story concrete structure, adjoining other Schlage plant buildings. Schlage manufactured door and other hardware for approximately 27 years at this facility. Based on 1963 blueprints, it appears that Schlage converted a hardware polishing room in the northeast corner of the building into two rooms. Area 1, which contains a below-ground *sump* (referred to in other documents as a *lift station*), was apparently part of a door hardware degreasing process. Similarly, Schlage apparently used chlorinated solvents for hardware stripping in Area 2 (referred to as the *strip room*).

In approximately March 1980, Schlage sold the property to Pacific Lithograph Company, Inc. (Pacific Lithograph). At that time, Schlage removed most equipment, other than the sump in Area 1. From 1980 to 1993, Pacific Lithograph ran a lithographic reproduction operation in the building. Pacific Lithograph reports that it did not use the sump in Area 1; the company stored mainly nonchlorinated solvents in Area 2.

SHALLOW SOIL INVESTIGATIONS

In September 1993, EMCON Associates conducted soil sampling. This soil sampling was done as a standard part of a potential property purchase. At that time, Pacific Lithograph informed DTSC that soil contamination had been discovered on the Site. A *Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA)* conducted in 1994 by Treadwell & Rollo, Inc., on behalf of Schlage included shallow soil sampling in or adjacent to Areas 1 and 2. Analytical results from these soil sampling investigations showed elevated levels of *chlorinated solvents*, including

perchloroethene (PCE) (also called tetrachloroethene), and *trichloroethene (TCE)* in shallow soil. Analysis of the sampling showed elevated levels of:

- PCE, in concentrations up to 2,200 parts per million (ppm) immediately beneath the lift station, and
- TCE, in concentrations up to 23 ppm in soil beneath portions of the two rooms to a depth of approximately six feet below ground surface.

Soil beneath the rooms consists of clayey and silty sand with *groundwater* encountered at six to 10 feet below ground surface.

REMOVAL ACTION WORK PLAN

In order to clean up contaminated soil beneath the rooms described above, DTSC required Pacific Lithograph to prepare a draft Removal Action Work Plan. This document includes an *Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)* evaluating several cleanup alternatives and recommends a preferred approach based on protection of public health and the environment, technical feasibility and cost.

Technical consultants considered several technologies to address soil cleanup including vapor extraction, on-site treatment, removal and disposal. Based on review of those technologies, four remediation alternatives were developed and evaluated. Evaluation criteria for each alternative included environmental impacts, implementability, effectiveness and cost.

The four soil remediation alternatives evaluated as part of the draft Removal Action Work Plan are summarized as follows:

Alternative 1: No Action. This alternative would leave the site in its current condition. The No Action alternative is required by law and provides a baseline against which to measure other alternatives.

Alternative 2: *In situ* (or in place) vapor extraction uses vapor extraction wells to remove VOCs from site soil. The extracted vapor would be treated by passing it through granular activated carbon that absorbs VOCs. Alternative 2 was not selected because shallow groundwater conditions at the Site would likely interfere with vapor extraction effectiveness, prolonging cleanup.

Alternative 3: Excavation and on-site treatment cleans up the Site by digging-up approximately 155 cubic yards of affected soil beneath the building, followed by on-site soil treatment. Affected soil would be spread on plastic in an open area, then covered. The cover would be removed partially and the soil periodically turned over so that the volatile chemicals would evaporate into the air at a rate approved by the Bay Area Air Quality Control District. If necessary to control dust, the soil piles would be watered-down. Upon completion of on-site treatment by this aeration method, the soil would be transported for disposal at an appropriate landfill. Alternative 3 was selected as the preferred alternative.

Alternative 4: Excavation and off-site disposal involves digging-up approximately 155 cubic yards of affected soil beneath the two rooms in the building. Excavated soil would be loaded into trucks for transport off site to a hazardous waste disposal facility. Alternative 4 was not selected because the cost was substantially higher than the cost involved in Alternative 3 due to high disposal costs for untreated soil.

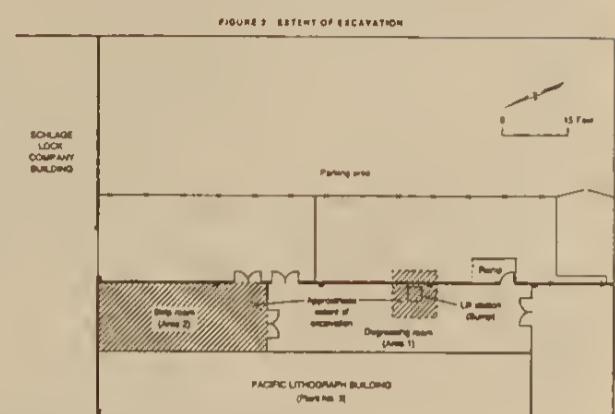
RECOMMENDED CLEANUP METHOD

On the basis of the evaluation presented in the draft Removal Action Work Plan, Alternative 3 was selected as the recommended method to clean up soil at the Site. Alternative 3 will protect public health and the environment, is technically feasible and cost-effective.

This alternative consists of the following steps:

1. Locate all under-floor piping and utilities
2. Remove the concrete floor slab around the sump in Area 1 and in Area 2 to gain access to the underlying soil (refer to Figure 2).
3. Excavate approximately 25 cubic yards of soil around the sump in Area 1, removing the steel sump structure, and break-up the concrete floor for easier removal, then removing the debris. Also, excavate approximately 130 cubic yards of soil, to six feet below ground surface, in Area 2. Soil removal would be completed by dividing the total soil volume into smaller amounts, or cells, which would be excavated and back-filled alternately to permit soil removal next to walls and footings.
4. Spread excavated soil on plastic within a fenced area on the adjacent parking lot to aerate. Exposing stockpiled soil to air would remove the VOCs.
5. Load the aerated soil into trucks for transport to a landfill facility.

Environmental impacts associated with Alternative 3 are considered to be relatively low. Construction workers inside the building would use respirators and other personal protection equipment to protect from chemical vapors that could build up inside the rooms during excavation and soil movement. Air monitoring for chemical vapors and dust will occur throughout the cleanup activities. Dust control measures will include covering soil piles with plastic and watering, as required. The amount of VOCs released during the soil aeration process, which would occur outside the building, would be below regulatory thresholds and present no risk to nearby workers, pedestrians or residents.



CEQA REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the draft Removal Action Work Plan, DTSC has prepared a California Environmental Quality Act Negative Declaration. The proposed Negative Declaration finds that the proposed project -- performing these cleanup activities -- would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

SCHEDULE

The recommended cleanup alternative may be implemented in two months. The current plan is to conduct the removal during the autumn of 1995, weather permitting.

GLOSSARY

Chlorinated Solvents - Chemical compounds containing chlorine such as perchloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) used as solvents.

Cubic Yards - A term of measurement. Fifteen cubic yards equals approximately one dump truck load.

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) - An evaluation to assess the most technically sound and cost-effective alternative for cleanup.

Groundwater - Water beneath the ground surface that flows through soil and rock openings.

Lift Station - A pumping facility with a reservoir from which one or more pumps discharge liquid to a higher elevation.

Parts per million (ppm) - A unit of measure used to describe levels or concentrations of contamination. For example, one drop of liquid in $\frac{1}{2}$ barrel of liquid would create a concentration of approximately 1 ppm. One ppm equals 0.0001 percent.

Perchloroethene (PCE) - A volatile organic compound that was used primarily as a dry-cleaning agent. It is often referred to as "perc," also known as tetrachloroethene. It is toxic and listed as a cancer-causing chemical under Proposition 65.

Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) - A study which is performed to determine whether current or past waste management practices have resulted in the release or threatened release of hazardous substances that pose a threat to public health or the environment.

Removal Action Design and Implementation Work Plan (Removal Action Work Plan) - A plan which evaluates cleanup alternatives (the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis) and develops a preferred alternative design and method for implementation.

Sump - A pit or tank that catches liquid runoff for drainage or disposal.

Trichloroethene (TCE) - A volatile organic compound that is often used as an industrial degreasing solvent. It is toxic and is listed as a cancer-causing chemical under Proposition 65.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) - Carbon-containing chemical compounds that evaporate readily. These compounds are found in industrial solvents, degreasers, paint thinners, and nail polish.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The full Administrative Record pertaining to this matter is available at DTSC. The Draft RAW, proposed Negative Declaration, fact sheet and other documents are available for review at:

Visitacion Valley Community Center
50 Raymond Avenue
San Francisco
(415)467-6400

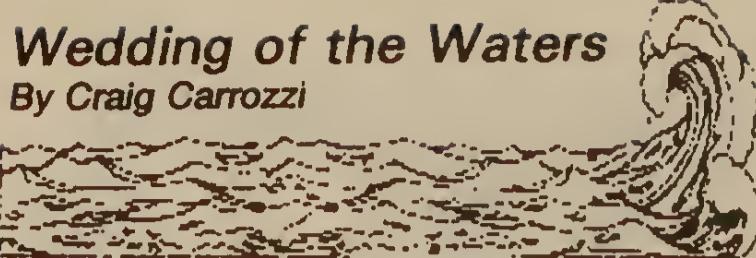
San Francisco Public Library
Visitacion Valley Branch
45 Leland Avenue
San Francisco
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SEND COMMENTS TO:

Cal/EPA-DTSC
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710-2737
(510)540-3840
Contact: Beth Bufton

Wedding of the Waters

By Craig Carrozza



Our adventurer awakens on his first morning in Brazil.

LOST IN THE BUSH

Vaguely, as though from a great distance, I heard a steady rapping sound. It's like a woodpecker, I thought, stirring groggily. Or a beaver tampering down the mud on its dam. I wish it would shut up ... I sat up on the bed, remembering where I was. A voice called me from the other side of the door. It's Hector, I thought. He hasn't forgotten our appointment after all.

"Wait a moment," I called.

"Yes, but hurry," he answered.

What's the hurry? I thought as I got out of bed. My brain was still fogged with sleep. I pulled on my clothes. I opened the door and faced Hector. He looked at me with surprise.

"Do I look that bad?" I asked him.

"You look hungover. Did you sleep?"

"Yes, for a while. I feel better now. I just have to wake up."

Hector's face was sympathetic.

"What's happening?" I asked him. "What did you find out?"

"Well, I have some bad news ... I checked around the wharf and with some of my friends who know about such things and - to their knowledge - there are no boats leaving for Manaus until the end of the week. Maybe Saturday."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes! Positive! ... But one never knows."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Somebody wants to go home early. Schedules change."

"But it's unlikely."

"Exactly."

Dam! I thought. Looks like I'll have to scrap my plan and go back to Leticia. So much for Manaus ... What a bummer! But what the hell, I'll wait around Benjamin Constant for a couple of days and do some checking on my own. I'm still not so sure about this Hector. He might be a little con artist ... Let's see what develops. Maybe a favorable whim will blow my way and everything will work out. It not ... well, I know I can have a good time in Leticia.

"What do you want to do this afternoon?" asked Hector, interrupting my thoughts. "I can show you more of Benjamin Constant ..."

"No. Let's go for a turn in the jungle like we planned. Just wait a moment while I put on these boots."

"All right, if you like. But there's one problem."

"What?"

"It's pretty late to go into the bush. We have only a few hours of daylight left and ... the jungle is very dangerous in the dark. There are snakes and spiders and scorpions ... I think it would be better if we go early in the morning."

"No. We can go to the outskirts of town for a short hike. That's all. Nothing special."

"Yes, we can do that."

"Let's do it then."

We left the pensao and headed for the outskirts of town. After a few blocks of dusty walking, I wanted something to drink.

"How's the beer in Brazil?" I asked Hector.

"It's good."

"Let's stop and get one."

We stopped at a neighborhood store. I ordered a beer. Hector asked for a soda. The man gave me a large tall bottle. The beer was called Antarctica. I liked the name, I thought. A taste of the frozen South while sweltering on the Equator. I took a swig. The beer was cold and good. Tastes better than the Colombian beer, I thought.

Hector drank a Guarana, a carbonated fruit drink.

"Do you drink beer?" I asked him.

"Sometimes. But not when I'm working ... Anyway, I prefer Guarana. Beer tastes bitter to me."

We left the cool gloom of the store and walked. The beer had buoyed my spirits, and refreshed my tongue and throat. We passed the center of town with its public buildings and swung left toward the river. Hector was a conscientious tour guide. He made several detours to show me such points of interest as the hospital, the high school and the homes of town personages. I grew bored. The whole town seems to be cheap brick and corrugated metal, I thought. Everything is bland and uniform.

As we ascended a gentle slope that paralleled the Amazon, the road, shaded by huge trees, grew muddy. The houses along the sides of the

road thinned out and the vegetation thickened. Several abandoned houses were overgrown with vines and brush. The mud sucked at our shoes.

"Pretty soon, right?" I asked Hector.

"Yes, pretty soon."

Hector walked slower and slower and slower. He kept finding excuses to stop. He cast longing gazes back to the town.

"Let's go," I urged him. "It's getting late."

"Yes, you're right, we should come back in the morning."

"Why? Just a short walk, man. What's the problem?"

"No problem." He shuffled forward.

All the bragging he did earlier, I thought, about what an experienced guide he is. He doesn't seem to have a clue.

Opposite the last of a string of modest residences, we reached a narrow footpath that led into the bush. A boy about Hector's age sat with half-closed eyes on a log beside the trail.

"This is a friend of mine," Hector said to me. "He lives here and goes into the jungle every day. I'll ask him how it is today."

Hector greeted his friend and introduced me. Then they spoke for several minutes. Concentrated as I might, I was able to understand only an occasional word. I watched Hector's face. He maintained a grave countenance as he talked and gestured toward the bush. His friend chattered several times. I folded my arms and waited. At last Hector finished talking and turned to me.

"Well?" I asked.

Hector's shoulders slumped and his eyes were downcast. "Bad news," he said. "My friend says the ground is very treacherous because of unusually heavy rains ... He thinks it would be advisable to stay on solid ground and away from the forest."

"Really?" I stepped on the footpath and tested the ground. "It doesn't look that bad. It's no worse than the road we came here on."

Hector avoided my eyes. "The mud is much worse the farther you go. That's what my friend says."

"The plants don't hold the ground?"

"I don't understand, Hector? What is the problem? You told me you had plenty of experience as a guide."

"I do! The problem is with the mud."

"Look, man, I have boots for the mud. And you should be used to it. It must rain here all the time ... But I don't care. If you think it's too dangerous - no problem. We can do some thing else."

"You think I'm afraid?"

"I don't think anything. What do you think?"

Hector stared at the shrubbery for a moment. "Let's go." He turned and followed the footpath; I was right behind him. We entered a maze of weeds and brush.

"This isn't really jungle," said Hector. "It's reclaimed farmland that they are letting lie fallow for a year or so."

"It's still thick," I said, pushing a vine away from my face.

"This is nothing. Wait until later."

After five minutes of walking, the footpath disappeared and we plunged into dense foliage. Though I was covered with insect repellent, swarms of bugs dove at my face. I swatted at them and forged ahead. Hector moved fast, threading a meandering course. Within minutes, I was breathing heavily and my lungs burned. The heavy, sweet air was suffocating. The plants tore and scratched at us with thorny fingers. Myriad snags and pitfalls lay hidden in the bush. Trailing vines and sucking mud worried our feet, trying to trip us up and send us to the ground where stinging ants and horny mandibles awaited. The ants were monsters.

"You should have brought a machete," I called to Hector.

"I don't have one."

He continued on, forcing the pace. I puffed along behind him, too proud and stupid to ask for a rest. He's getting back at me, I thought.

Hector halted next to a huge, lichen-covered tree and waited for me to catch up.

"This is where you really have to watch yourself," he said. "This kind of zone is more dangerous than the area we passed through ..."

Here you have venomous snakes,

spiders, scorpions, even frogs. Look before you step and watch the trees."

"I'll right."

"Do you want to go back to town?"

"No! This is what I came to see ..."

VISITACION VALLEY GRAPEVINE - OCTOBER 1995 - 5

about as well versed in jungle craft as me. I hope I didn't make a big mistake with him. I don't feel like sleeping in a tree.

I caught up to Hector and walked beside him. He kept his eyes glued to the ground.

"Don't worry," he said. "There's a trail that cuts through here and leads back to town. I should find it any moment."

"All right, Hector, I believe you. Take your time."

We wandered on. Hector made several detours and backtracked three or four times. He continued to assure me that everything was fine, but the concerned look on his face belied his words. I remained silent, not wanting to upset his concentration. Then he backtracked again and I could no longer contain myself.

"Where are we going, Hector?"

"The main path is just ahead of us," he replied, forcing a smile. "I am sure of it. I just spotted a landmark I recognize."

"I hope so ..."

A moment later, we encountered a narrow path and followed it to a broad clearing.

"Now I know where we are," said Hector. "There's no problem." The relief was evident in his voice.

I breathed easier.

"What's going on here?" I asked Hector, surveying the field.

"They are preparing this zone for cultivation. They came through here a few days ago with machetes and axes. Soon they will burn."

"It looks weird."

Fallen timber, like wasted corpses on the field of battle, lay dormant and forboding on the exposed black loam. Five foot high mounds of earth and twigs rose eerily over the vegetation rotting in the hot sun.

"What are those mounds?" I asked Hector, walking over to examine one.

"These are ant hills," he said.

"Ant hills?"

I took out my camera and snapped a few pictures. I took one of Hector posing next to one of the ant hills. Then he took one of me. Hector's self-assurance returned. He chattered about his dual life in Benjamin Constant and Leticia.

"I hope to open my own tour agency someday," he said.

"The problem is, I'm not sure where I want to live. Leticia has more busi-



Attractive tile art is displayed by artist Hyoka Bells at the Native Daughters Design Studio in Paso Robles, CA. Many neighbors remember Hyoka, a former Valley resident, as the Community Center's trusty gardening instructor who also wrote the Grapevine's monthly "How Do Your Gardens Grow?" column.

ness, - established competition. It would be difficult. Hera in Benjamin Constant I have many friends to help me get started."

"Think it out well," I commented. "But it sounds like you have the right idea."

"I think so."

We rested and chatted for a while longer. I liked Hector for his enthusiasm and cheerfulness. He was starting to grow on me. I just hope he gets us out of this bush without further problems, I thought.

While we talked, dark ominous clouds congregated overhead. The sky turned blue-gray and a damp wind rustled the high grass and bushes.

See Page 8

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TOPEKA

This Month in S.F. History

OCTOBER

1: In 1858, the *Daily Evening Transcript* was established by William H. Mantz and Co. In 1864, the City's cable cars were declared a National Historical Monument.

2: In 1859, the cornerstone was set for St. Francis Church in North Beach.

4: In 1978, a newly refurbished Pier 39 opened.

5: In 1876, the Palace Hotel on Market St. opened. In 1853, the Hyde St. Pier - once a major ferryboat embarkation point - reopened as a State Historical Park.

9: In 1935, eight trolley buses built by J.G. Brill of Philadelphia began running on the 33 Golden Gate Park line of the Market Street Railway, first of the City's many electric buses. In 1940, S.F. Zoological Garden first opened.

9: In 1856, the *Daily Evening Bulletin* was established by C.O. Gerberding and Co., with James King of William as editor. William died seven weeks later in a famous duel with Sunday Times editor James Casey. In 1860, a telegraph line was completed between S.F. and Los Angeles. In 1865, a jolting earthquake loosened bricks and broke cornices of City buildings. In 1833, Coit Tower - built with funds bequeathed by Lillie H. Coit - was dedicated.

9: In 1779, Mission Dolores was founded.

12: In 1933, Alcatraz converted from military prison to federal penitentiary. In 1963, the bottom deck of the Bay Bridge - for-

merly used for Key System trains and large trucks - reopened with five eastbound traffic lanes.

15: In 1853, a telegraph line began transmission between S.F. and San Jose. In 1863, the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad began operating. Also that day, the first Cliff House opened.

16: In 1971, the McLaren Park Amphitheatre was dedicated.

17: In 1904, the Bank of Italy - later Bank of America - was established by A.P. Giannini. In 1989, a 7.1 earthquake - strongest since 1906 - shook the Bay Area at 5:04 p.m.

19: In 1966, Golden Gate Bridge toll doubled to 50 cents, collected only from southbound traffic.

20: In 1929, traffic first rolled down the Bayshore Highway.

21: In 1868, a strong earthquake shook the City at 7:53 a.m.

23: In 1863, the original St. Francis Hotel, five-story structure at Clay and Dupont (now Grant Ave.) Sts. was destroyed by fire.

25: In 1809, the Visitacion Valley streetcar line - a one-track route with turnouts - began operating from Geneva Ave. and Mission St. to the Six Mile House at what is now Bayshore Blvd. and Sunnydale Ave. In 1913, the cornerstone of S.F. City Hall was set in the Civic Center.

26: In 1920, the Ocean Shore Railroad - never profitable with light patronage during its 14 years - ran its last train.

27: In 1966, the S.F. Bay Guardian had its first issue on the streets.

collaboration with the Food Stamp Outreach Office of the Department of Social Sciences, the goal is to reach: impoverished working families with children; students working 20 hours per week, enrolled in college work/study, or responsible for a child either under six or disabled; and recently legalized immigrants.

For information, call 920-7280.

Need Food Stamp Help?

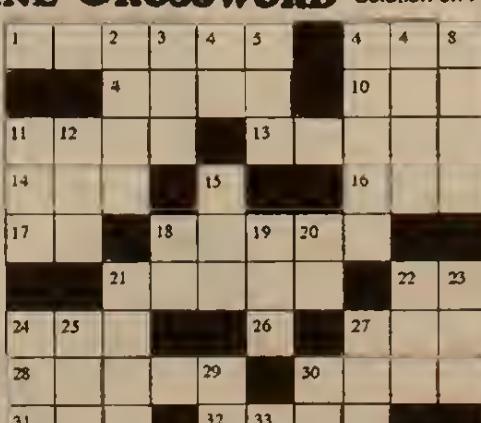
In order to identify and reach families who might otherwise go without food, the Children's Council of San Francisco is offering food stamp enrollment assistance at its Bayview-Hunters Point office, 3450 Third St., Bldg. 2A, Suite 200.

Working on this pilot project in close

bump, the Grumps

**GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD** Solution on Page 7

ACROSS
1. Fix
9. Also
10. Excuse
10. How
11. Mix
13. Fast
14. Direct
19. Question
17. Promissory note
19. Plated
21. Simpson dad
22. Present
24. Seed
26. Mr.
27. Single
26. World
30. Bidden
31. Do
32. Smell
34. It
35. Celebrates



11. Fluid
12. Metal
15. Blur
18. For
19. Allow
20. Emergency Room
21. Bret —
22. Aleo —
23. Mound
24. Turf
25. Every
27. Rowers
29. Fervid
30. Snake
33. Accomplish

**Historic Proportions**

Match clues to their answers.

1970

1. This breakaway country gives up on January 12 after 31 months of war.

2. This started taking off on January 22.

3. Record of the Year, Album of the Year and Song of the Year at the Grammys.

4. They were the World Series Champs this year.

5. She flew into the comic pages.

6. National Guardsmen and students clash here May 4, resulting in four fatalities.

7. They started telling us to "Get happy!"

8. This movie was the top money maker of the year.

9. This year they became the last American Football League champions.

10. By March 31, this baseball team no longer existed.

11. On April 14, the world began following this struggle for survival.

12. This opinionated chap becomes syndicated.

13. On September 17, this popular comedian got his own show on a circular stage.

14. And on September 19, the world was introduced to this brash anchorman.

15. Best picture at the Academy Awards.

16. In mid-season, the Big Red Machine moved here.

17. Suddenly, this band was no more.

18. On December 16, the FDA recalled about one million cans of this because of mercury poisoning.

- A. Riverfront Stadium
- B. Midnight Cowboy
- C. Airport
- O. Kansas City Chiefs
- E. The Partridge Family
- F. Bridge Over Troubled Water
- G. Flip Wilson
- H. Broom Hilda
- I. Doonesbury
- J. Kent State
- K. Boeing 747
- L. Ted Baxter
- M. Tuna
- N. The Beatles
- O. Bifra
- P. Apollo 13
- Q. Seattle Pilots
- R. Baltimore Orioles

13-G, 14-L, 15-B, 16-A, 17-N, 18-M,
6-J, 7-E, 8-C, 9-D, 10-O, 11-P, 5-H,
Answers: 1-O, 2-K, 3-F, 4-R, 5-H

Book Review

Cereal Box Bonanza: The 1950s by Scott Bruce; Collector Books, P.O. Box 3009, Paducah, KY 42002-3009; 1995; 216 pgs.; \$19.95 + \$2 postage.

In this first of a series of full color album and price guides documenting cereal boxes and premiums of the 1950s, Scott Bruce, editor of *Flaka* magazine for cereal box collectors, has assembled an impressive array of nostalgic photos absolutely guaranteed to bring fond memories to anyone who remembers growing up in the prime baby boomer years and digging for that elusive prize at the bottom of the box. So if you can remember Sugar Jets, Juniors, Wheat or Rice Honey's at your breakfast table, or even trying to function Tobar, the Mystery Action Robot - it was a free piece of plastic in the box only 1 1/4 inches tall, but today worth 50 bucks - you might want to check this one out. Bruce is currently assembling a companion volume of boxes and premiums from the 1960s that's sure to be every bit as entertaining.

Recipe of the Month**AUTUMN CHEESECAKE**

1 cup graham cracker crumbs; 3 tbsp. sugar; 1/2 tsp. cinnamon; 1/4 cup margarine, melted; 16 oz. cream cheese, softened; 1/2 cup sugar; 2 large eggs; 1/2 tsp. vanilla; 4 cups thinly sliced peeled apples; 1/3 cup sugar; 1/4 cup chopped pecans (or 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans).

Combine crumbs, sugar, cinnamon and margarine, press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 10 minutes.

Combine cream cheese and sugar until well blended. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Blend in vanilla, pour over crust.

Toss apples with combined sugar and cinnamon. Spoon apple mixture over cream cheese layer; sprinkle with pecans. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 1 hour and 10 minutes. Loosen cake from rim of pan; cool before removing rim of pan. Chill.

Serves 10.

Sundays are for Bingo at VVCC

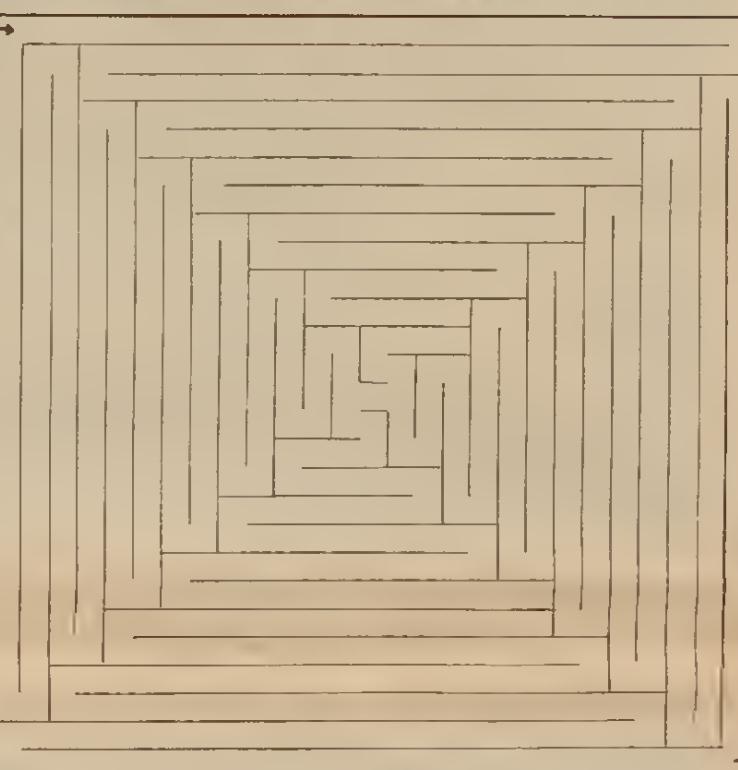
With cards in hand anxiously awaiting the call of each new square, tradition for many Visitacion Valley residents are the popular bingo games held each Sunday at the Community Center's auditorium.

Funds Will Help Curb Red Light Runners

San Francisco Emergency Medical Services Agency has been awarded \$27,700 to conduct a public awareness campaign to stop motorists from running red lights. The City joins 32 other communities throughout the United States to be awarded part of a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Funds will be used to educate the community about the risks associated with red light running and the need to comply with traffic signals.

This public information campaign is part of a multi-faceted approach to the problem which includes stepped-up enforcement efforts.

MINUTE MAZE**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**

OCTOBER

- 1: Julie Andrews (1939); Jean Arthur (1908); Tom Bosley (1927); Jimmy Carter (1924); Richard Harde (1943); Ted Healy (1908); Walter Matthau (1920); George Peppard (1928); Randy Quaid (1960); Omer Sharif (1932); Stella Stevens (1936); James Whitmore (1912)
- 2: Bud Abbott (1896); Charley Chase (1893); Margaret Dumont (1889); Groucho Marx (1890); Spanky McFarland (1928); Don McLean (1945); Rex Reed (1938); Sting (1951); Tiffany (1971)
- 3: Gertrude Berg (1899); Chubby Checker (1941); Ruth Gordon (1896); Warner Oland (1880); Madelyn Rhue (1934); Dave Winfield (1951); Thomas Wolfe (1900)
- 4: Rutherford B. Hayes (1822); Clinton Devine (1945); Charlton Heston (1923); Buster Keaton (1895); Patti LaBelle (1944); Susan Sarandon (1946); Lori Saunders (1941); Toccio Brothers (1977)
- 5: Chester Alan Arthur (1830); Josie Bissett (1969); Bill Dana (1924); Bob Geldof (1954); Glynnis Johns (1923); Allen Ludden (1919); Steve Miller (1943); Donald Pleasence (1919); Jimmy Pritz (1905); William Tabbert (1921)
- 6: Britt Ekland (1942); Janet Gaynor (1908); Carola Lombard (1909); Matthew Sweet (1964); Bob Weir (1947)
- 7: June Allyson (1917); Gabriel Dell (1919); Andy Devine (1905); Alfred Drake (1914); John Mellencamp (1951); Oliver North (1943)
- 8: Ron Barrett (1938); David Carradine (1938); Chevy Chase (1943); Paul Hogan (1939); Jessie Jackson (1943); Bela Lugosi (1982); Sigourney Weaver (1948)
- 9: Jackson Browne (1950); John Lennon (1945); Linda Ronstadt (1956); Joe Pepitone (1940)
- 10: Jessica Harper (1949); Helen Hayes (1900); Martine Navratilova (1958); Alan Rachine (1927); David Lee Roth (1956); Tammy Tucker (1968); Ben Vereen (1946)
- 11: Daryl Hall (1948); Earl Hyman (1928); Ron Liebman (1937); Luks Perry (1966); Jerome Robbins (1919); Eleanor Roosevelt (1884); Roy Scheider (1935); Steve Young (1961)
- 12: Susan Anton (1960); Kirk Cameron (1970); Dick Gregory (1932); Luciano Pavarotti (1935); Adam Rich (1968); Will Rogers, Jr. (1912)
- 13: Lenny Bruce (1926); Lorraine Day (1920); Yves Montand (1921); Marie Osmond (1969); Nipsey Russell (1924); Paul Simon (1941); Carrie Snodgrass (1938); Margaret Thatcher (1925); Cornel Wilde (1916); Desmond Wilson (1944)
- 14: Harry Anderson (1949); Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890); Lillian Gish (1893); Ralph Lauren (1938); Roger Moore (1929); Roger Moore (1927); Cliff Richard (1940)
- 15: Fritz Feld (1900); Lee Iacocca (1924); Tito Jackson (1955); Linda Lavin (1937); Penny Marshall (1945); Jean Peters (1925)
- 16: Michael Conrad (1927); Barry Corbin (1936); Barbara Bel Geddes (1922); John Candy (1950); Dale Evans (1912); Lee Grant (1929); Michael Landon (1937); Jane Pauley (1950); Dan Rather (1931)
- 17: Sam Bottoms (1955); Montgomery Clift (1920); Beverly Garland (1926); Rita Heyworth (1919); Margot Kidder (1948); Evel Knievel (1938); John Marley (1916); Michael McLean (1947); Arthur Miller (1916); Tom Poston (1927); Howard Rollins, Jr. (1950); Irene Ryan (1903); Jerry Siegel (1914); George Wendt (1948)
- 18: Chuck Berry (1926); John Boles (1895); Peter Boyle (1938); Leo G. Carroll (1892); Pam Dawber (1951); Mika Ditsa (1939); Jeesus Helms (1921); Miriam Hopkins (1902); Joe Morton (1947); George C. Scott (1927); Inger Stevens (1934)
- 19: Jack Anderson (1922); John Lithgow (1945); Robert Reed (1932); Simon Ward (1941)
- 20: Dr. Joyce Brothers (1928); Art Buchwald (1925); William Christopher (1932); Michael Dunn (1934); Arlene Francis (1906); Grandpa Jones (1913); Tom Petty (1953)
- 21: Carrie Fisher (1956); Dizzy Gillespie (1917); Peter Graves (1911); Manfred Mann (1940); Joyce Randolph (1925)
- 22: Constance Bennett (1906); Joan Fontaine (1917); Annette Funicello (1942); Catherine Deneuve (1943); Jeff Goldblum (1952); Valerie Gorino (1966); Derek Jacobi (1938); Timothy Leary (1920); Christopher Lloyd (1938)
- 23: Johnny Carson (1925); Diana Dors (1931); Hayden Rorke (1910); Weird Al Yankovic (1960)
- 24: Kevin Kline (1947); David Nelson (1938); Bill Wyman (1938)
- 25: Billy Barty (1924); Barbara Cook (1927); Anthony Franciosa (1928); Tracy Nelson (1963); Minnie Pearl (1912); Helen Reddy (1942); Marion Ross (1928)
- 26: Primo Camera (1908); Hillary Rodham Clinton (1947); Jackie Coogan (1914); Bob Hope (1903); Fritzi Mitterrand (1916); Pat Sajak (1947); Jaclyn Smith (19

Wedding of the Waters

From Page 5

"We'd better get going," said Hector, eying the sky. "Here, dusk hits like lightning. There is almost no twilight; it's light one minute and dark the next. And these clouds will make it happen even faster."

"I'm ready ... Now, are you sure you know which path to take from here?"

"No problem. This clearing is the landmark I was searching for." Hector pointed his long skinny arm to the bush. "We follow that footpath left by the cutters and ... no problem. We're back in town having a drink."

We followed the path into the bush. Within a few hundred yards, it disappeared under fresh growth.

"Now where?" I asked.

"Relax, man. From here I don't need a path."

You don't convince me, I thought.

We moved into heavy undergrowth. Hector again seemed to be leading us in circles. Less and less light seeped through the foliage. I slapped at insects and cursed under my breath. Then I stumbled headlong over a vine. As I went down, I grabbed at a branch and had my hand raked by thorns.

Hector hurried back to me. "Are you all right?"

I picked myself up. "Yes, I'm all right. But I'm not sure you know where you are going. This doesn't look anything like what we passed on the way in."

"Because it's not the way we came in. This is a different route. I know where we are."

We stumbled forward, clawing the plants out of our faces, until we hit a screen of impenetrable vegetation. Hector decided to double back. Now I was truly worried. We thrashed through the bush for another fifteen minutes or so. Finally, Hector stopped and turned to me, a look of dejection on his face.

"We're lost," he said. "Which way do you think we should go? ..."

My impulse was to take him by his scrawny neck and ring it. What a worthless guide, I thought. He got us stranded in the middle of nowhere ... Got to keep cool. Yelling at him might get him flustered and make things worse. I counted to ten to control myself before I spoke.

"Look, Hector, you are the guide. You come from here. I don't know distance. The moist air seemed to where we're at ... Now, before we take crackle with energy. The sky was

another step, look around and think about where we are before we get farther from town. Take your time."

Hector gave me a reproving look, as though I were the one who had screwed up. "You don't have an idea?"

"How the hell would I know where to go?"

"All right. It's only a matter of time before I relocate the correct path. I got sidetracked somewhere."

"Fine. But what's a matter of time? ... Do you mean hours, days or months? I can just imagine us trying to sleep in the crotch of a tree. Yeah, just like Tarzan."

Hector giggled. "Don't worry, I'll find it soon."

I hope this is his idea of a joke, I thought. But it ain't funny.

We moved ahead with greater urgency. Every minute brought night closer. Hector croaked reassurances, but we were blundered from one dead end to another, his voice betrayed less and less conviction. I remained silent.

If I hound him, he might panic, I thought. Just stay cool. We can't be far from town.

Again Hector doubled back. He looked confused. I caught him glancing back at me from time to time with a reproachful look in his eyes. He must be cursing the day fate sent this idiot gringo to plague his existence. As for me, I'd like to thrash him for his lies. Experienced guide, huh? ... But it's my fault, too. I could see he didn't want to go into the jungle and I pushed him into it.

As we tripped along, Hector slowed his pace. Both of us were winded and arm-weary from pushing the vegetation aside. What we need is a seeing-eye dog, I thought. Or a trained monkey.

Panting and sweating, we broke through the trees and brush, and onto a field a field of head high grass. Without a word, we halted. Hector stood on his toes and spun like a top, trying to get his bearings. The grass rustled in his lace, blocking his vision. It seemed to mock us.

"We must be close to town," I said. "This land has been worked."

"I don't recognize it," said Hector. "But we must be close."

A sudden gust of wind rippled the grass. Thunderheads rumbled in the distance. The moist air seemed to give you a kiss. Moses come to lead

gloomier. Hector and I exchanged serious looks.

"Well, what do we do?" I asked him.

"I know we are close. We still have time and light enough for another attempt."

"But if we can't find the way back? ... We have to do something. We need some kind of shelter for the night."

"Let's not think about that yet. We can still find our way back."

"We have to think about it. We need to do something before nightfall. We need light."

"I don't know what to do," said Hector. "I've never stayed in the forest overnight."

"Me either. At least not this one ... We'll need a fire. I have matches."

"Let's look for a trail. We still have about an hour of light."

"All right."

I felt calmer. I was already anticipating the worst. Looks like we're really in for an adventure, I thought. This is a lot more than I bargained for. We need to ...

Suddenly, from somewhere in the grass came the sound of cracking twigs.

"What now?" I exclaimed. "Some kind of strange animal?"

"Sshh!" whispered Hector.

We listened intently. Hector's face cocked forward as though he were a bloodhound on a hot scent. I stood frozen. Adrenalin pumped through my body. The sounds moved closer. We swiveled our heads, trying to localize the thing.

Hector blurted something in Portuguese.

After a moment of silence, he was answered.

Hector called out again. Though I understood nothing, his voice carried a hint of relief.

Again we received an answering call.

Hector looked at me and smiled. "Everything's all right now."

We peered in the direction from which the call had come. A moment later, emerging from the cover of the waving stalks, out trudged a backwoodsman. On one shoulder he bore two saplings and on the other an antique rifle. An olive drab army cap sat upon his head, framing a grizzled, sun-spotted face. He grinned shyly at us, showing greenish teeth. Man, I thought, ugly as you are, I'd like to give you a kiss. Moses come to lead

us out of the wilderness. And just in time ...

The woodsman never broke stride.

He gestured to us to follow him and walked straight into the bush. Hector grinning and confident once again, fired sentences at the man. I understood nothing. The man made only token responses. He was in a hurry.

"Do you know him?" I asked Hector.

"Of course. I know almost everybody in Benjamin. His name is Simon. He's good people."

Simon strode unerringly through the baffling tangle of vegetation. His step was light and sure. Nothing like experience, I thought. I should have had him for a guide.

Hector despaired of conversing with Simon and turned to me.

"You know," he said, "I was never really lost. I know this route we're on now. I was only momentarily confused."

"Whatever you say, Hector."

"You don't believe me?"

I laughed, an insult dying on my lips. I don't know how to say unmitigated hell in Spanish and I don't want to tell him he's full of crap, I thought. I'm just glad we're getting out of this.

Within 20 minutes, we were on the dirt road leading back to town. We had been within shouting distance.

"Ask Simon if he wants to go for a drink," I told Hector. "I'm inviting."

Hector asked him. The man laughed and gave Hector some kind of explanation.

"Thank you," said Simon, speaking to me. "I can't. Thank you."

"Thank you," I said.

"His wife is waiting for him with dinner," said Hector.

"It's all right," I said to Simon.

"Thank you."

Simon smiled and walked off. His grizzled face was imprinted on my memory. Well, I thought, thanks to him we escaped cheaply from that stupidity. I stared at Hector for a moment. I should get on his case. Ah, what the hell. Nothing happened.

"You want to go for a drink?" I asked him.

Hector looked surprised. "Of course. Let's go."

We retired to a neighborhood store that also served as a bar. I ordered a beer for myself and a Guarana for Hector. While we drank, I teased him.

"Man," I said, "if you're going to run a tour agency, you have to do better than today. That could have been

dangerous. If you can't guide somebody in the forest, you have to get somebody that can."

"That's what I wanted to do," said Hector. "But you were in a hurry; I didn't want to disappoint you. For real jungle tours, I have partners who help me."

"You should have told me that. I would have waited."

"It was late. And I didn't think I needed help for a little hike ... Anyway, nothing happened."

"Luckily. Next time you might not be so lucky."

"No, I've learned something today. Give me another chance. I'll bring a friend who is an expert in the jungle."

"I thought you were an expert in the jungle."

"Well, I'm more of a translator and businessman. Let me take you out tomorrow and I'll really show you something."

"That's what I'm afraid of." I chuckled to take the edge off my words. "It you show me much more than you did today, it might prove fatal."

"Just give me another chance. You'll see."

"All right. Maybe."

We finished our drinks and headed for the pensao. On the way we passed a vacant lot where a gang of young men were playing soccer on a dirt field. One of them called Hector. We stopped. The young man came over and talked to Hector.

"They want me to play," Hector told me. "This is my team."

"Do you want to play?" the man asked me.

I looked at the rock strewn field. "No, I want a cold beer."

The young man laughed. "Later."

"Can you find the pension by yourself?" Hector asked me. "I want to stay here and play."

"Sure. No problem. Go ahead and play."

"Should I come by the pension tomorrow morning to see what you want to do?"

"Well ... Yes, come by if you want." Hector smiled. "Good. Until tomorrow."

I turned and raced onto the field.

Maybe I'll be gone by the time he gets there, I thought. I don't know about this kid.

I walked off and found the pensao two blocks from the vacant lot. No problem, man.

Continued Next Month



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